



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 6, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 4, 2004
CWP WA-CW2704

Winter Wheat Turned Color in Whitman County Raspberry Harvest in Full Swing

Field Crops

Winter wheat and barley in Whitman County started to turn gold, while spring wheat remained green. Hot, dry conditions in Adams and Lincoln Counties helped to ripen winter wheat, but stressed spring cereals. High aphid populations were reported in Skagit County potatoes. Christmas tree growers in Grays Harbor County started to inventory fields in anticipation of this year's harvest. Hay harvest continued under ideal conditions with only a few weather interruptions throughout the state.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 17 % very poor, 18% poor, 29% fair, and 36% good. In Pacific County, shellfish producers prepared to spray for burrowing shrimp during the low tide series late in the week. Oyster harvesting and processing continued with good yields, and growers finished transferring older oysters to fattening grounds.

Fruits and Vegetables

Most of the hops in Yakima County had topped trellises. Concord grapes in Benton County experienced large berry drops. Cranberry growers in Pacific County continued weed and insect control and started to irrigate fields and bogs. Skagit County experienced a memorable first as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries were being harvested at the same time. Apricot harvest started in Yakima County and mint harvest began in Benton County. Green pea, cherry, onion, and tomato harvests continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.8
Last Week	6.6

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	24	72	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	10	33	57	0
Subsoil	2	23	75	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	7	43	49	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	0	2	97	1
Hay & Roughage	2	2	95	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	99	89	96	89
Barley Headed	99	85	93	88
Potatoes Harvested	5	0	2	2
Corn Emerged	100	99	100	100
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	66	0	31	NA
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	98	97	97	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	37	16	51	50

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	24	53	17
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	3	94	3
Spring Wheat Dryland	2	3	36	51	8
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	4	90	6
Barley Dryland	1	2	33	51	13
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	89	11
Potatoes	0	0	4	94	2
Corn	0	1	3	96	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	5	94	1

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Cooler temperatures and misty conditions helped to cool down the sizzling hot temperatures. The lack of measurable precipitation continued to exacerbate dry conditions throughout the rural landscape. The warm summer temperatures and supplemental irrigation resulted in rapid growth of sweet corn. Hothouse tomato growers continued to remove foliage on individual plants to hasten fruit ripening. Christmas tree growers began taking inventory of fields in anticipation of this year's harvest. Some growers reported early buyers. Ornamental nurserymen were challenged with maintaining adequate soil moisture in containerized plants. Most livestock producers were able to get the first crop of hay in the barn, with no rain spoilage. Home gardeners continued to harvest cherries, blueberries, strawberries, and raspberries as well as a large variety of vegetables.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The lack of rainfall was becoming a concern. Dry weather continued to benefit the hay harvest.

Kitsap: The county imposed the first open burning ban in the region. Continued high temperatures, along with dry conditions, stressed crops. The new Poulsbo Farmer's Market opens on July 10, with many area farmers expected to bring a bounty of fruits and vegetables.

Pacific: Continued dry conditions created opportunities for a variety of farm activities. Most hay producers had either already put up hay or were completing the job. Cool conditions in the morning caused some slowing of the drying process. Raspberry producers were harvesting a bumper crop, and cranberry growers continued weed and insect control programs. Dry conditions required growers to begin irrigation of fields and bogs. Shellfish producers were gearing up for burrowing shrimp control spraying during the low tide series later in the week. Oyster harvesting and processing continued with good yields, and growers finished transferring older oysters to fattening grounds.

Pierce/South King: Crop conditions remained good for the

South Puget Sound area. Field crops, vegetables, and pastures were all doing well. There were no unusual situations to report and no damage to crops due to weather events.

Skagit: It was the first time in memory that farmers were harvesting strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries at the same time. Strawberry harvest was finishing up and blueberry harvest was just beginning. Disease pressure was low as warm, dry conditions prevailed. Aphid populations were high in apples, seed crops, potatoes, berries, and other crops. Some potato growers were making plans to vine kill in a couple of weeks.

Snohomish/King: The weather was sunny and dry with some scattered showers later in the week. Lots of local hay was cut and baled. Crops and pastures showed good growth. Raspberry harvest continued and blueberries were nearly ripe. A good apple crop was sizing up. Apple maggot continued to spread throughout the county.

Thurston: Another week with no rain continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. Pastures with no available irrigation were beginning to dry up. Livestock producers harvested hay under ideal conditions. This has been a year in which everyone was able to get hay into the barn without any spoilage due to rain. Raspberry harvest was at its peak, strawberry harvest was nearly complete, and blueberry harvest was well underway. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistles and blackberries. Turfgrass growers took advantage of dry soil conditions to prepare harvested fields for seeding. Home gardeners enjoyed green peas, new potatoes, onions, and radishes fresh from the garden.

Whatcom: Grass growers chose to make hay over green chop due to the prevailing warm temperatures and dry conditions. Lighter early pickings were the norm as raspberry harvest got into full swing. Blueberry harvest was just beginning and strawberry harvest concluded.

Central

Benton: Mint harvest was underway and cherry harvest was nearly complete. Concord grapes were experiencing large berry drop.

Franklin: The weather was warm and dry during the week. The second cutting of alfalfa continued. Cherries were being picked. The potato crop looked good.

Franklin (2nd Report): It was another good growing week for all crops, with normal to slightly above normal temperatures. Beans emerged. Peas were being cut. Most grass seed varieties had been cut or were in the harvest stage. The second cutting of hay finished up with virtually no rain damage. Sweet corn continued to be planted behind other crops and/or was maturing for the upcoming harvest. Fall planted onions were in the process of harvest, particularly at the southern end of the county.

Grant: Green pea and cherry harvest continued. Sweet corn planting continued.

Kittitas: A few timothy hay fields were still in windrows. Most fields had completed the first cutting. Usable water on rangeland/dryland pasture was quite a ways down in most areas--well over 12 inches deep.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The first cutting of timothy hay neared completion. Sweet corn cultivation was nearly complete. Range and pasture conditions remained good.

Okanogan/Ferry: The first cutting of alfalfa hay was nearly complete. The recent rains prevented cutting and/or baling.

Yakima: Little to no rain was received throughout the county. Cherry harvest continued but the peak of harvest was over. Apricot harvest began. Most of the hops in the area have topped the trellis.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 3 to 10 degrees above normal, with .01 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses were reported due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Hot, dry conditions persisted throughout the week, ripening winter wheat and stressing spring cereals. Winter wheat harvest may start in the very southwestern end of the county by the end of the week, if weather conditions continue. Overall, winter wheat conditions have not changed and remained mostly fair to good.

Adams (2nd Report): It was another nice week, with highs in the 80's. Bluegrass was swathed in preparation for harvest and the second cutting of hay went down also. Grains began and/or continued turning, depending on location. Harvest remained at least 10-14 days off, even in the southern portions of the county.

Lincoln: Hot, dry conditions continued, ripening winter wheat and stressing spring cereals. Winter wheat remained in mostly fair to good condition. Spring cereals were nearly finished heading and remained in mostly fair condition.

Stevens: Thunderstorms and rain showers hampered haying efforts again. Wet hay was found in the windrow as well as in the bale. Grain crops and pastures continued to look good.

Walla Walla: Cereal grains turned rapidly. The harvest was expected to begin in the northern portion of the county within a week to ten days. Rangeland was drying up quickly, yet it appeared there was still adequate vegetation for grazing. Most hay producers completed the second cutting of alfalfa with better luck than the first cutting.

Whitman: Hot, dry conditions prevailed throughout the week, with cooler temperatures received over the weekend. Some scattered thunderstorms and precipitation were reported. Crops generally looked excellent. Winter wheat and peas were turning green to golden and yellow. Barley was also beginning to turn. Most spring wheat was still green in color.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 6, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	52	74	62	2	85	8	15	1	0.00	-0.35	0	27.76	-5.93	82	137
Everett	52	75	62	0	87	4	17	-4	0.20	-0.16	1	27.43	-6.66	80	147
Hoquiam	53	68	60	0	68	3	2	-5	0.19	-0.16	2	61.34	-4.05	94	174
Kelso	55	82	69	7	131	45	61	39	0.00	-0.32	0	31.08	-13.20	70	121
Olympia	44	81	62	1	84	5	18	2	0.00	-0.26	0	43.97	-4.69	90	152
Sea-Tac	54	78	64	2	102	6	32	3	0.00	-0.25	0	32.82	-2.64	93	130
Shelton	50	80	63	0	95	2	25	-3	0.00	-0.29	0	60.22	-2.67	96	150
Tacoma	52	79	65	3	105	12	35	7	0.00	-0.29	0	30.61	-7.67	80	131
Vancouver	55	82	68	6	128	35	58	30	0.00	-0.25	0	29.76	-9.67	75	144
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	56	95	74	9	170	56	100	53	0.00	-0.07	0	7.36	-0.98	88	85
Omak	55	90	73	9	166	58	96	52	0.01	-0.19	1	10.61	-2.83	79	70
Stampede Pass	46	71	57	5	51	22	2	2	0.11	-0.34	1	69.70	-8.21	89	160
Wenatchee	62	92	76	6	187	39	117	39	0.32	0.25	1	8.87	1.18	115	77
Yakima AP	54	92	73	6	162	34	92	33	0.01	-0.06	1	6.29	-1.16	84	68
NORTHEAST															
Colville	55	87	72	8	153	50	83	44	0.13	-0.11	1	8.74	-10.66	45	73
Deer Park	49	88	69	3	134	19	64	15	0.34	0.13	2	17.37	0.30	102	123
Spokane AP	55	87	72	7	156	41	86	37	0.02	-0.19	1	13.18	-2.07	86	107
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	62	91	76	4	186	28	116	27	0.00	-0.09	0	4.85	-1.84	72	64
Moses Lake	55	92	75	3	176	18	106	17	0.00	-0.09	0	5.05	-1.64	75	62
Quincy	61	89	74	6	172	37	102	36	0.00	-0.07	0	4.93	-2.31	68	57
Ritzville	51	90	71	6	152	35	82	31	0.07	-0.07	1	10.23	-0.35	97	74
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	57	95	76	2	187	10	117	9	0.00	-0.07	0	6.38	0.32	105	65
Pasco	54	94	77	5	191	32	121	31	0.00	-0.07	0	7.70	0.70	110	78
Pullman	48	84	67	5	120	27	50	19	0.00	-0.24	0	15.15	-4.46	77	103
Whitman Miss.	56	94	75	6	174	39	104	38	0.00	-0.14	0	16.25	3.48	127	113
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	54	86	71	5	149	31	79	28	0.34	0.04	4	13.49	-10.43	56	103
Lewiston ID	60	93	76	5	184	33	114	32	0.03	-0.18	1	11.28	0.15	101	94

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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